

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of optical imaging of oesophageal cancer and Barrett's oesophagus of an animate subject involving administering an optical imaging contrast agent to the subject and generating an optical image of at least a part of said subject to which said contrast agent has distributed, wherein said contrast agent is of formula I

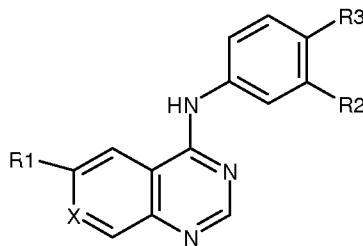


wherein:

L is a linker moiety or a bond;

R is one or more reporter moieties detectable in optical imaging chosen from a dye that interacts with light in the wavelength region from the ultraviolet to the near-infrared part of the electromagnetic spectrum; and

V is one or more vector moieties of formula:



wherein

R1 = substituted alkoxy or arylamide;

R2 = halogen,

R3 = H or fluorine,

X = N or CR4, wherein R4 is alkoxy.

said vector having affinity for an abnormally expressed target in oesophageal cancer or Barrett's oesophagus, where said biological target ~~being selected from E-cadherin, CD44, P62/c-myc (HGF receptor), p53 and~~ is EGFR/erbB-2.

2.- 7 (Canceled).

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 where the contrast agent is provided as a pharmaceutical composition together with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

9 - 10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 for diagnosis of oesophageal cancer and Barrett's oesophagus, for follow up of the progress of oesophageal cancer and Barrett's oesophagus development, follow up of treatment of oesophageal cancer and Barrett's oesophagus, or in surgical guidance.

12-13. (Canceled)